

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled.

No claims are currently being amended.

Claims 17-19 are currently being added.

This amendment adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-19 are now pending in this application.

Prior Art Rejections of Claims:

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,501,463 to Dahley et al.; claims 2-3, 11-12, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahley et al. as applied to claims 1 and 10, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,469 to Nounin et al.; claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahley et al. as applied to claim 2, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,373,502 to Neilsen; and claims 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahley et al. as applied to claim 4, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,542,083 to Richley et al. These rejections are traversed for at least the reasons given below.

In its rejection of claim 1, the Office Action asserts that Dahley et al. discloses an electronic whiteboard that has a communication system for communicating to individuals or computing devices within its locality the

network location of the data store. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion made in the Office Action.

Dahley et al. discloses a network connection by which his electronic whiteboard 10 provides data to other devices on the network. See, in particular, Figure 1 of Dahley et al. Thus, while Dahley et al.'s electronic whiteboard 10 provides data to other devices 54, 56 and 60 on the network 50 via a network connection, those other devices 54, 56 and 60 are not within the "locality" of Dahley et al.'s electronic whiteboard 10. See, for example, column 4, lines 47-52 of Dahley et al. Rather, they are located remote from the electronic whiteboard 10.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the disclosure of Dahley et al. Independent method claim 10 is patentable for similar reasons.

With respect to the rejection of claim 2, the Office Action asserts that Nounin et al. discloses the use of a beacon signal for an electronic whiteboard, in column 45, lines 29-67 and in column 1, lines 1-117 and in Figure 44. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion made in the Office Action. Namely, Nounin et al. is directed to a portable electronic device 610 (held by a user) that is capable of receiving base station map data, upon a base station map request signal sent out by the portable electronic device 610. With all due respect, the "base station" construction of Nounin et al. is much different from an electronic whiteboard, and it is submitted that one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of Nounin et al. with those of Dahley et al. Furthermore, the sending of base station map data by an infrared beacon 640 to the portable electronic device 610 does not correspond to the sending of a network location of the device that is providing the base station map data to the portable electronic device 610.

Note that the network location of the claimed electronic whiteboard is its "network" location, so that a user can access data from the electronic whiteboard over the network. The sending of a network location via a beacon does not allow one to obtain data from the electronic whiteboard via over-the-air

communications by which the beacon was received. In the present invention, one must still connect to a network on which the electronic whiteboard is connected, in order to access the whiteboard data.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, claim 2 is patentable over the cited art of record.

With respect to claims 14 and 16, the Office Action asserts that column 9, lines 63-67 and column 1, line 1 of Dahley et al. discloses an electronic whiteboard in which a signal output by a beacon includes the network location associated with the data store, and a data file name. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion. Namely, the Office Action, in its rejection of claim 1, acknowledges that Dahley et al. does not disclose or suggest a beacon. Furthermore, column 9, lines 63-67 of Dahley et al. merely describes that data from the electronic whiteboard can be sent over a network and thereby stored on a network server. Thus, the way data is sent (via a network as opposed to via a beacon), and where the data is stored (at the electronic whiteboard versus at a network server) are different. Nounin et al. does not rectify these deficiencies of Dahley et al., since it uses a beacon to merely announce a presence of an infrared beacon 640 to a portable electronic device 610, whereby data file information is not provided in the beacon signal.

Accordingly, claims 14 and 16 are patentable over the cited art of record.

With respect to the rejection of claims 13 and 15 based in part on the teachings of Richley et al., the Office Action asserts that Richley et al. teaches the use of a bar code that is physically located on an external surface of a device, whereby the bar code provides information as to an electronic tag from which a network location of the device can be derived. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion made in the Office Action. Richley et al. provides electronic tags for various devices, so that their positions can be tracked over time. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that these devices are network devices, or that information is provided via the electronic tags concerning their network locations. Rather, Richley et al. is merely concerned about spatial positions of components within a room, whereby there is no

disclosure concerning obtaining network location information of those components.

Accordingly, claims 13 and 15 are patentable over the cited art of record.

New Claims:

New claims 17-19 have been added. New claim 17 explicitly recites that the data store can only be accessed via a network connection to the data store by way of a network, and by utilizing the network location of the data store to obtain information from the data store over the network. In the system of Nounin et al., on the contrary, the infrared beacons send beacon signals over-the-air to the portable electronic device, whereby base station map data is then provided by an infrared beacon to the portable electronic device via the same over-the-air medium (and not via a separate network connection).

New claims 18 and 19 recite additional features of the data file information, to thereby allow a user to be able to find a particular data file based on information concerning the data stored in the data file.

Conclusion:

Since all of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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